



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small, non-farm businesses in 47 California counties (plus neighboring counties in Arizona and Nevada) may now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues to farmers and ranchers caused by the record setting heat wave that occurred in the following 16 primary California counties from July 1, 2006 through July 31, 2006, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary California counties:

Butte	Calaveras	Fresno	Glenn	Imperial
Kern	Kings	Madera	Merced	San Bernardino
Solano	Sonoma	Stanislaus	Sutter	Tehama
Tulare				

Neighboring California counties:

Alameda	Alpine	Amador	Colusa	Contra Costa
Inyo	Lake	Los Angeles	Marin	Mariposa
Mendocino	Mono	Monterey	Napa	Orange
Placer	Plumas	Riverside	Sacramento	San Benito
San Diego	San Joaquin	San Luis Obispo	Santa Barbara	Santa Clara
Shasta	Trinity	Tuolumne	Ventura	Yolo
Yuba				

Neighboring Arizona counties: La Paz Mohave Yuma

Neighboring Nevada counties: Clark

Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. "Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Mike Johanns declared this disaster at the request of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration.

For information and application forms, call toll-free (800) 659-2955, or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **May 7, 2007**.

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